published in the Hindustan Times, dated 1st December, 2001 captioned, "Maoists spread net in North-Bengal, Sikkim, Bihar, plan stir";

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Nepal has requested for Indian assistance; and

(d) if so, what help Government of India has promised to Government of Nepal in tackling Maoists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Government has seen the news item. Some instances of the presence of Maoist activists in a few States has been reported.

(c) and (d) It would not be in public interest to disclose the desired information.

ISI activities in Andhra Pradesh

3076. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-report, "ISI active in Andhra Pradesh for over a decade" appearing in the Times of India dated the 28th September, 2001; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto and the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted in the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report refers to incidents which have been investigated by the Police authorities of different States. Based on the interrogation, subsequent arrests helped in detection of several bomb explosion cases in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Delhi and other places. However, keeping in view the attempts by Pak ISI to foment trouble, a close watch is being kept on the situation.

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has set up a Counter Intelligence Cell to monitor the activities of ISI activists and anti-national elements. In order to check the activities of Pak ISI, the Central Government has taken several steps which include sensitizing the State Governments about the threat

perception and movement of ISI agents/activists. Periodic coordination meetings are also held with the State Governments for sharing the inputs from various quarters as well as for devising strategies to counter such activities.

The Central Government also provides financial assistance to the State Governments for modernization of their Police forces in order to equip them to deal with terrorism and other security related problems more effectively. Steps taken in this regard has resulted in detection/neutralization of various Pak ISI backed modules.

Statement of Minister

3077. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press statement of Minister of State Shri O. Rajagopal reported in Indian Express dated 24th October, 2001 that many top UDF leaders of Kerala are having links with ultras; and

(b) whether the allegation made in the statement have been verified; if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Government has seen the news item.

(b) The contents of the Statement have been noted.

Foreign based NGOs in North-Eastern States

3078. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many foreign based NGOs are working in North-Eastern States (State-wise list);

(b) the names of such Non-Government Organisations;

(c) whether they have taken any permission from Government of India;

(d) if not, what action Government propose to take against them; and

(e) how long they are working in the region?